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.. ©PYRGHT A Laudable Whitewash

*A Review by Richard Wathen*

THE REAL CIA: By Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Jr. 312 pp. ~~Macmillan~~ \$6.95.

ON EVERY SUBJECT of importance, whether it be an institution or some great man, we wait for a book to appear that is a complete and satisfying study of real excellence, and such a book is often described as the definitive work. It is my opinion that Lyman Kirkpatrick's book meets this high standard, and that it will long stand as the most satisfying, informative and well presented account of our Central Intelligence available to any reader.

I had a terrible suspicion when starting "The Real CIA" that this might be no more than a whitewash, written by a man who had been with the agency since its very beginning in 1947, and authored for no better reason than to counter a string of sensational and often critical books appearing in recent years. And in one sense this is a whitewash. For it is such a clear presentation of the problems confronting our nation when it went about setting up an effective and coordinated intelligence system that the reader can only sympathize with the magnitude of what had to be done.

Kirkpatrick has been through major reorganizations of the agency under Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and John McCone, and of course has served as a top assistant to Allen Dulles. His observations of these men and others who have been guarded by something of a veil of

secrecy make fascinating reading. Kirkpatrick writes with dignity and discretion, and yet his words tell a great deal in loud clear tones.

HE MEETS the criticism that CIA has had too great an influence in foreign affairs head on, saying, "It would be foolish to argue that the CIA cannot influence foreign affairs." He goes on to point out that CIA men generally have longer tours of duty and acquire more expertise than their State Department counterparts, and it is only natural that an ambassador will look to the most experienced man on his staff for advice.

His accounts of the Bay of Pigs invasion and the U-2 incident are both lucid and exciting. Indeed the book has a vitality that does not permit any of the chapters, even when dealing with a complicated array of facts, to become tedious.

Kirkpatrick's career of nearly 20 years with CIA was interrupted midway by an attack of polio which left him crippled and forced to use a wheel chair. That this handicap did not end his service, or indeed prevent him from traveling about the world as Inspector General of CIA, is a tribute to his own fortitude.

Now a professor of political science at Brown University, Kirkpatrick has performed as valuable a service to the public by writing "The Real CIA" as anything he might have done while on the Government payroll.

Mr. Wathen, now a Jeffersonville attorney, served with the CIA after the war.

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